

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded on rollcall Nos. 483, 484, and 485. I was unavoidably detained and was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three measures.

PUBLIC HEALTH SECURITY AND BIOTERRORISM RESPONSE ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Response Act of 2001, H.R. 3448. Since the September 11 terrorist and the subsequent anthrax attacks, we in this country have become acutely aware of our vulnerability to bioterrorism, and I particularly became a cosponsor of this legislation because of those concerns.

One of my major concerns has been the unique vulnerability of medically underserved populations to a bioterrorist attack. Many of the residents of these areas do not have access to even basic health services, much less comprehensive health insurance or preventive and specialty care. In addition, state and local governments which provide many of the health services to these communities are finding their resources depleted due to the recent recession and terrorist attacks.

This legislation goes a long way towards protecting medically underserved communities and strengthening state and local health departments. Specifically, I thank Chairman TAUZIN and Mr. DINGELL for agreeing to work with me to include a provision in this bill which investigates the unique needs of medically underserved areas in case of a bioterrorist attack.

Also, the bill strengthens state and local public health infrastructure through a series of grants, which include funding for: the purchases or upgrades of equipment, supplies, pharmaceuticals or other countermeasures; the training and education of health care professionals where there are shortages; and laboratory services and poison centers.

In regards to funding for poison centers, these entities are critical first responders, particularly to urban and rural underserved areas. In my home state of Illinois, the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council operates the Illinois Poison Center which provides 24-hour poison prevention and treatment advice statewide. The center acts as a liaison to federal, state & local agencies and serves as a resource for information on weapons of mass destruction, including chemical & biological agents. The Center is the preeminent center in Illinois dedicated to the treatment of incidents of pediatric poisoning. If a bioterrorist attack occurred in Illinois, undoubtedly the Illinois Poison Center would play an invaluable role in alerting the community.

For far too long our public health infrastructure has been divided between those with access to services and those without access to services. This legislation will help close the gap between these two groups where bioterrorism is concerned.

PUBLIC HEALTH SECURITY AND BIOTERRORISM RESPONSE ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3488, the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Response Act of 2001.

On September 11, our way of life changed. Something that has been on everyone's minds since the beginning of the anthrax scare in the United States is the state of our public health system. Everyone wants to know if the United States is equipped for a possible chemical or biological attack, and I'm proud to say we are working to ensure our readiness.

Before September 11, it was important for the United States to allocate money for improvements to our public health system. After September 11, it became a necessity. Congress is taking a step in the right direction by passing the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Response Act of 2001. Since our public health infrastructure is spread among different agencies and departments, this \$2.96 billion package addresses a variety of funding necessities to infuse our public health system with desperately needed funds to protect the American people in case of chemical or biological attacks.

My colleagues and I realize the important role played by state and local offices of the public health system. Often, it is our local health officials who are deeply embroiled with the day-today assistance for those involved in chemical and biological attacks. This legislation allocates almost \$2.7 billion across a variety of agencies that prepare for public health emergencies such as bioterrorism attacks. \$1 billion will be given to states, local governments, and public and private health care facilities in the form of grants. It allows them to improve planning and preparedness for attacks, enhance their laboratories, educate and train their health care personnel, and develop new treatments and vaccines.

\$1 billion is earmarked for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to expand our current national stockpile of antibiotics and vaccines, including those for smallpox. Since the Centers for Disease Control play an important role when it comes to bioterrorism, \$450 million will go to it for bioterror program expansion. It is crucial they renovate their facilities and improve lab security. The package also calls for the creation of a national database of hazardous pathogens and establishes registration, safety and security requirements on the 36 most deadly biological agents and toxins.

Congress is finally addressing some major deficiencies in our food inspection process, and water supply security. This bill gives \$100 million to the Food and Drug Administration, which will allow them to better protect our food

supply by hiring more border inspectors and finding new methods to detect contaminated food. An additional \$100 million will be distributed specifically to safeguard our drinking water by increasing vulnerability analyses and emergency response plans.

I applaud my colleagues' hard work on this legislation, and I'm glad we were able to address this issue before the holidays.

BASIC PILOT EXTENSION ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM OSBORNE

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be a cosponsor of H.R. 3030, the Basic Pilot Extension Act of 2001, which passed the House by voice vote on December 11, 2001. The Basic Pilot is a joint pilot conducted by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and the Social Security Administration (SSA) in my home state of Nebraska, among others. This pilot, which started in November 1997, involves verification checks of the SSA and the INS databases of all newly hired employees regardless of citizenship. Unfortunately, the Basic Pilot program was scheduled to terminate on November 30 of this year.

The agricultural economy of Nebraska's Third District relies heavily on immigrant labor. For the most part, I believe that employers across my district want to comply with the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, which made it unlawful for employers to knowingly hire or employ aliens not eligible to work, and required employers to verify documents of new workers. However, a simple visual check of these documents by employers will not tell them if these are in fact counterfeit documents, and that this potential new hire is in fact an illegal alien.

I have heard from many business people in the Third District about their need for the Basic Pilot program. Employers need the appropriate tools to ensure that they are indeed hiring eligible workers. By checking the new hire's documents against the INS and SSA databases, the Basic Pilot program allows employers to feel more confident about their new hire.

H.R. 3030 will extend the Basic Pilot program for employers in Nebraska for two years. I thank my colleague, Representative LATHAM, for introducing this much needed extension, and I am pleased it passed the House on December 11, 2001.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 483, H. Con. Res. 281, honoring the ultimate sacrifice made by Johnny Micheal Spann, the first American killed in combat during the war against terrorism in Afghanistan, and pledging continued support for members of the Armed Forces. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 484, H.R. 3282, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 400 North Main Street in Butte, Montana, as the "Mike Mansfield Federal Building and United States Courthouse." Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 485, H.R. 10, the Railroad Retirement Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday morning December 6, 2001, I was unavoidably detained and as a result missed 1 rollcall vote.

Had I been present, the following is how I would have voted: Rollcall No. 476—"Nay."

(On agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 305—Providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules)

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINE KOCH, CLINTON TOWNSHIP DEMOCRATIC CLUB

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, this year the Clinton Township Democratic Club will host its biennial Awards Banquet, where members come together to celebrate the achievements of two of its members with food, laughter and fun. Honoring distinguished individuals who have shown outstanding dedication and service to the club as well as their local communities, this year they chose to honor two very special people, State Senator Ken DeBeaussiaert and Clinton Township Democratic Club President Christine Koch. Over the course of my career in Congress, I have had the honor of recognizing individuals from all over my District and State. Today, however, I have the distinct pleasure of honoring my two good friends, Ken and Chris.

I have had the great honor of knowing and working with Chris for over 25 years, beginning in 1972 when Chris and I joined forces in a community action group called Locofocos. Entering public service in 1977 as a member of my Congressional District Staff, Chris dedicated so much of her time and effort to serving her community. In her role as administrative aide, Chris represented the 10th Congressional District well, serving on more community boards and volunteer organizations than I could possibly name. Among the many visionary projects Chris sponsored as her personal mission, one of the closest to her heart has been the development of a district-wide bike path. Even today, she continues her dedication as President of Comprehensive Youth Services, Inc., Secretary of the Salvation Army Advisory Council, Secretary of the Mount Clemens Downtown Development Authority, and Secretary of Michigan Housing Counselors.

Faithfully committed to the Clinton Township Democratic Club, Chris has been a member

since its inception, serving as club secretary and later, as President since the mid 1990's. Dedicating her time to organizing club picnics and banquets, facilitating the Democratic Club's annual student luncheons, and serving as liaison to the Tenth District and the Michigan Democratic Party, few have shown the outstanding leadership and dedication to an organization as Chris has for so many years.

It gives me great pleasure to honor one of my district's most tireless advocates for the Democratic way of life, Christine Koch, for her leadership and commitment, and I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting her for her exemplary years of service.

TEACHERS: DO NOT BLAME "AMERICA FIRST"

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, since the eleventh of September, our nation has demonstrated a genuine solidarity and an enthusiastic sense of patriotism. In the process, many parents have struggled to find the right way to tell their young children about the horrific nature of the terrorist attacks on our nation. Indeed, the events of September 11 brought to the fore unsettling questions about the problem of human evil and hatred.

As parents have sought to instill patriotism in their children—telling them about the decent values that America represents and the civilized traditions our nation carries on—it seems that some teachers are sending young students the "Blame America First" message. Chester E. Finn Jr., president of the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, and a former assistant secretary of education, has observed that the curricular guidance coming from state and local education leaders suggests that the United States brought the September 11 attack on itself—through its "imperial" foreign policy and "ignorance" of other cultures.

Nothing could be further from the truth; this is not the kind of overly politicized message students should be hearing. I'd like to commend Mr. Finn for exposing this activity. I'd also like to commend former Education Secretary William Bennett for developing an alternative to this kind of anti-Americanism. Mr. Bennett's education firm K12 has creating an instructional resource for parents and teachers to use in teaching children about patriotism. Available on the K12 website and geared for most ages, the lessons—ranging from civics, history, and geography to singalongs and storybooks—emphasize the principles that make America the beacon of liberty it is today.

The September 11 terrorist attacks may prove to be the largest, most significant event in our lives. We need to ensure that our children understand what caused it; we need to make sure the truth is not lost in a fog of political correctness.

INTRODUCTION OF H. CON. RES. 287

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, Earlier this year, while on a visit to South Africa, I had the chance to learn about a fascinating partnership between governments and conservationists. The Peace Park movement is a great success story and one that the world can learn from, particularly in our present world, which is beset of conflict, turmoil and uncertainty.

In 1997, Dr. Anton Rupert and His Royal Highness Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands formed the Peace Parks Foundation of South Africa, a not-for-profit organization, to establish and develop transfrontier conversation areas straddling international borders. Countries participation in a "Peace Parks" do not concede any national sovereignty but do allow the free movement of people and animals across the borders within the park. The goal of these parks are to create jobs, sustainable economic development and peace and understanding between the countries themselves as well as an appreciation of the importance of conservation.

Today eight separate peace parks either exist or are under development. These transfrontier conservation areas parks encompass a total area of 232,000 square miles and straddle borders from Tanzania in the north to South Africa in the south. One of the most ambitious plan of the Peace Parks Foundation is the consolidation of the land and its resources of the South Africa Kruger National Park, Mozambican Coutada 16 conservation area and the Zimbabwean Gonarezhou National Park into the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park—the largest conservation area in the world.

In October 2001, the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park was inaugurated when forty elephants from South Africa were released into Mozambique. Less than ten years ago this border symbolized the division and conflict between these countries and their peoples. For example, the apartheid-era South Africa government erected an electric fence along its border areas. Today the electric fence, which led to much acrimony and conflict between South Africa and Mozambique, is being dismantled, and the land mines are being removed and destroyed. The Great Limpopo Peace Park has helped replace gunfire, land mines and death with peace, understanding and life.

In addition to advocating for and facilitating the creation of more parks, the Peace Parks Foundation also plays a crucial role in community development. The Foundation encourages new ways to utilize the natural resources on a sustainable basis and the development of tourism facilities. Last year the Foundation through its partnership with the Southern African Wildlife College and other supports secured scholarships for 29 students drawn from wildlife departments and field programs in nine Southern African countries. These scholarships allow the students to attend the Southern African Wildlife College and train to become conservation managers.

I applaud the courage and vision of the Heads of State of the Southern African Development Community, who are patrons of the